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NEW YORK TIMES  
25 May, 1985

# Soviet Said to Recall Envoy In Father-and-Son Spy Case

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 24 — A Soviet diplomat who was implicated in a purported father-and-son espionage operation has been recalled to the Soviet Union from his post here, Reagan Administration officials said today.

The officials, who did not want to be named, said Federal agents saw the unidentified diplomat near the spot where a retired Navy communications officer left nearly 130 secret documents earlier this week.

Meanwhile, Federal law-enforcement officials, who also did not want to be named, said they were aware of reports that the retired officer, John A. Walker, and his son Michael were cooperating with prosecutors investigating the case. But the officials would not comment on the reports.

If they were cooperating with prosecutors, they were apparently hoping for leniency in exchange for information about their purported spying, officials said.

## Grave Breach of Security

Mr. Walker, 47 years old, and his son, a 22-year-old yeoman third class aboard the aircraft carrier Nimitz, have been charged with smuggling secrets to the Soviet Union in what officials believe is one of the gravest breaches of security in Navy history.

Yeoman Walker is scheduled to return Saturday to the United States from Haifa, Israel, where the Nimitz had been docked, the Navy said.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has said it expects that more Americans will be arrested in the espionage conspiracy. Asked how many more people were involved, Bill Baker, a spokesman for the bureau, said, "Not a lot, but I can't talk about details."

If convicted on espionage charges, the Walkers face life in prison. The elder Mr. Walker, a private detective in Norfolk, Va., was arrested Monday after he left the secret documents at a wooded site in rural Maryland, and has been held without bond in Baltimore.

## Top-Secret Security Clearance

The F.B.I. has said the elder Mr. Walker may have been a Soviet spy for more than 15 years. He was a warrant officer and had a top-secret security clearance until 1976, when he retired from the Navy after a 20-year career.

The bureau had no comment on a news reports that he was recruited to spy for the Soviet Union in 1966, while serving aboard the nuclear submarine Simon Bolivar.

A highly placed intelligence official said investigators were working on the assumption that Mr. Walker had been a spy for many years. The official said

the former communications officer had been under surveillance for a number of months before his arrest.

The Soviet official was seen near the "drop site" where the secret documents were recovered last Sunday, law-enforcement officials said. They also said they believed the diplomat left the United States the next day.

The Soviet Embassy had no comment on what a spokesman, Boris Malakhov, described as rumors about the departure of the diplomat.

## A Tight Lid on Information

A drop site, in intelligence parlance, describes a place where agents leave information to be picked up by others. According to the F.B.I., Mr. Walker was arrested carrying an envelope that contained photographs and maps of Soviet drop sites near Washington.

The Justice Department's criminal division, which will handle the prosecution of Mr. Walker, ordered a tight lid on information about the case. The decision was made as Mr. Walker's attorneys went to court in Baltimore today to ask Federal District Judge Norman P. Ramsey to order officials not to discuss the case.

Judge Ramsey deferred a decision until Tuesday. The first pretrial hearing for Yeoman Walker son is also scheduled for that day.

After the elder Mr. Walker left the Simon Bolivar in 1967, he spent more than two years in Norfolk at the communications center that oversees the Atlantic submarine fleet. He later worked as a communications officer for the commander of all United States surface ships in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

## U.S. Tracking Methods Imperiled

Military analysts have said Mr. Walker probably had access to secret coding manuals and detailed information about the movements of American and Soviet submarines.

The information would have been of value to Soviet intelligence officials because it would disclose the ability of the United States to track Soviet vessels, military analysts said. With that knowledge, the Soviet authorities could develop strategies to outwit American tracking methods.

"Based on the duration of the espionage and the access of those who have been charged, you have to assume the damage they caused is substantial," said Mr. Baker, the F.B.I. spokesman.

He has said that other associates of the elder Mr. Walker would probably be arrested. "We're aware of some suspects," he said. "We may discover others."